

## SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS WHEN A MURDER HAS OCCURRED

Dear parents;

A very sad thing happened today that I want to share with you. (Give accurate information about the murder, using the word "murder"), e.g.:

*A neighborhood child who is the brother of \_\_\_\_\_ a student here at school was murdered earlier this week. We are all profoundly saddened by his death.*

We have shared this information and had discussions with all of our students so that they know what has happened. Counselors, staff and other support personnel have been, and will continue to be, available for students, staff and parents on an on-going basis. Please call the school (number) if you would like to talk to someone.

You may want to talk to your child as well. The violent death of a student/staff member may cause a variety of reactions in your child. Most children will experience being afraid for their own life and for the lives of those they love.

We will be planning follow-up activities to help cope with children's fears, with lessons on safety and security. You may want to talk to your children about safety at home and on the way to and from school.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!! PLEASE** send your child who walks to school at the appropriate time only. School begins at **8:40!**

Please do not send your child early to play on the playground. We recommend children walk with other friends to and from school. Children must go home directly after dismissal. Let's work together to provide the safest and most secure environment for our children.

There are news reporters around the school. You need not respond to reporter's questions if you are approached. Naturally, we will not allow reporters to interview your child at school.

The death of a young person is tragic. However, a violent death is a different and greater tragedy. It is a sad thing to have to teach our children about the violence in our world and that sometimes we do not have the power to prevent it. This is a loss for us all. We can offer our children our love and our intention to make a safe and kinder world. This is something we can do together. Please, let us know if there is any way we can support you during this difficult time.